

An Essay on  
Inflammation

Respectfully Submitted  
to the Faculty of the  
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## Inflammation

There have been in former times a great variety of opinions in regard to the pathological conditions of this disease. But at the present day, almost all the physicians and surgeons believe it to be an engorgement of the capillary vessels on the serous and mucous surfaces and delayed resolution of the walls.

It is supposed that the inflammation of blood from the venous sinuses to the surface through the capillary walls of the tubercles which are formed by the exudation

## Inflammation

There has been in former times, a great diversity of opinion in regard to the pathological conditions of this disease. but at the present day, most of the physicians and Surgeons, believe it to be an engorgement of the Capillary vessels or tubes, dependent upon a weakened and relaxed condition of their walls.

In all organic textures the transmission of blood from the minute arteries, to the veins, is through a fine net work of these tubes, which become engorged and overtaxed by the increased  
action

action of the heart and  
arteries.

We first become acquainted  
with inflammation, by its  
Characteristic Symptoms.  
which are pain heat redness  
and swelling. Each of which  
is dependent upon a morbid  
Condition of certain organs  
or tissues -

Pain is generally the first  
Symptom, the intensity of  
which depends. 1<sup>st</sup> upon  
locality 2<sup>d</sup> upon the natural  
Sensitiveness of the patient.  
Some persons being much  
more sensitive to pain than  
others. The sensitive nerves.



if not implicated. are  
infringed upon by the  
surrounding parts. and as  
the inflammation increases  
pain is also more acute.  
And according to the vary-  
ing nature of the part  
affected.

Heat is a phenomena  
which is ever absent. and  
generally prominent. But  
it is a very difficult one  
to describe, Satisfactorily.  
It is created in part by  
vital force. or action. through  
the medium of arterial  
circulation. but principally  
by molecular death of

the constituents of blood and tissues. for as soon as vitality ceases to exist in the parts. they become amenable to the laws of physics. and by the chemical changes which follow. heat is produced.

Redness depends upon the increase of blood in the part. for it has been ascertained ~~by~~ pathologists. that those vessels. which in their normal condition only transmitted colorless fluid. are now crowded with red corpuscles. also those which conveyed only

a single column are now  
filled with agglomerated  
masses. There may be  
also an extravasation of  
blood into the cellular struc-  
ture as well as serum.

This also depends much  
upon locality. The greater  
the supply of blood vessels  
to a part the greater will  
be the redness when inflamed.

Swelling in the first stage  
depends upon distention  
of the vessels and extravas-  
ation of blood and serum.  
but in the latter stages  
of the disease, there may.



be thickening of the walls  
of the ~~walls~~ of these vessels.  
And there also <sup>may</sup> be Coagula  
of blood and lymph.

Still there may be inflam-  
ation without much of  
any swelling. But this  
is not generally the case.

In this disease all of the  
symptoms depend one  
upon the other to a certain  
extent. When they are all  
prominent the disease cannot  
~~well~~ be mistaken.

Some or all of these symp-  
toms are present in most  
every disease. Still when  
in connection they Character



ize inflammation. no matter  
where situated.

Causes of this disease are  
various. Such as mechanical  
injuries of any kind, or  
some morbid condition  
of the blood. But the  
exciting cause whether  
external. Such as injuries  
of a part or internal as  
diseased blood. acts upon  
the sentient nerves sup-  
plying that part as a  
stimulent. producing  
an excited state. which  
(state) is conveyed to some  
nervous Centre. and thence  
reflected on the motor

nerous suppling that or  
some relative part.

This reflection however  
is supposed to bring  
about a kind of anta-  
gonistic sympathy so  
that instead of exciting  
the motor nerves to contract  
it paralyzes them, and is  
followed by contraction  
or dilation which is the  
most probable these vessels  
having no contractile  
power - This dilata<sup>tion</sup>  
being an exudation  
and other phenomena  
follows as mechanical  
consequences, or natural.

The terminations may be by resolution or by supuration. The former is much more desirable and in order to have such a result, it is necessary, in many cases, to do something to assist nature in her efforts to overcome the disease, and bring about a healthy termination, though in some cases, if left to itself, she may be able to, without the aid of art.

In order to treat this disease successfully it is necessary to under



Stand it fully in all  
its varied forms for there  
is not a disease to which  
the human frame is  
subject. but what either  
commence with, or end in  
inflammation of some part  
of the body - It is interesting  
not only to study its morbid  
phenomena but its termi-  
nations complications &c.

We find, notwithstanding  
its destructive consequences  
many diseases cannot  
be cured without first  
causing an adhesive infla-  
mation by some mechan-  
ical means. For instance

in the operations for  
Hydrocele Hernia &c &c  
were it not for this it would  
be useless to operate.

So that it is necessary, no  
one can doubt.

When called upon to treat  
this disease or any other it is  
necessary to study well  
the symptoms which  
are our only guide.

It is always well to find  
out the exciting cause at  
first, if possible. And  
remove it, after which  
the application of such  
remedies as may be  
indicated, can be made

with good results. Generally  
We are not to use the  
lancet the first thing (as  
an alafath would recommend  
and practice to perfection)  
But to use some of the  
Remedies of our Materia  
Medica. which will  
have a much more  
desirable effect. And to do  
this it is necessary, not  
only to understand the  
Symptoms of the disease  
but those of the remedy  
also. Then such a one  
~~as~~ may be selected as  
corresponds to the disease  
and administered according to the



The remedies which are  
most likely to be indic-  
ated are such as Acon.  
Ars. Bell. Bry. Cham. Rhus.  
Can. Canth. and Sulp.

If after the judicious em-  
ployment of such remedies  
the disease still progresses  
and there is threatened  
suppuration. Other remedies  
may be more applicable  
Sil. Hep. Sulp. Cal. Merc.  
Lyc. Sulp. Ars. & Carb. Veg.

There may be still others  
but in ordinary cases  
such as, may be selected  
from those mentioned  
and applied according to

the law. Similia Similibus  
Curantur will have the  
desired effect.

The external application  
of Arzica as well as the  
internal administration  
in such Cases as arise  
from mechanical injury  
may be made. In no  
other Cases would an  
external application be  
advisable according to our  
teachings which are suff  
icient to warrant us in  
such treatment.

Very respectfully

Yours.

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